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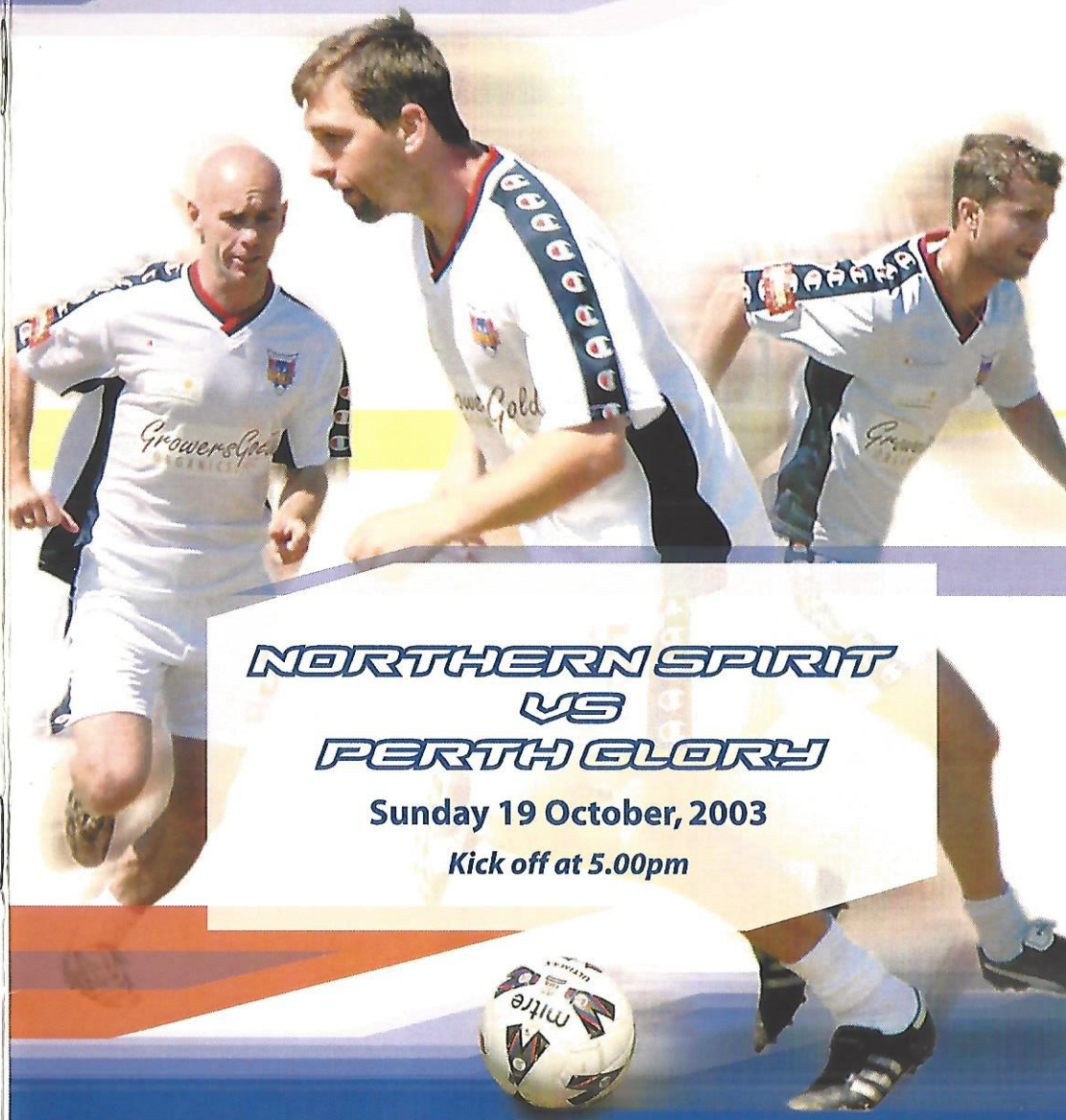
# SPIRIT NEWS



## NORTHERN SPIRIT VS PERTH GLORY

**Sunday 19 October, 2003**

***Kick off at 5.00pm***

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## *Antonio Gelonesi – Chairman*

Pittwater Park is a fantastic place to be this afternoon as we watch Spirit take on last season's premiers Perth Glory. It promises to be a highly entertaining match between two teams who enjoy playing quality attacking football.

Off the field, the past fortnight has seen some encouraging developments within the administration of soccer in this country. Following the governments' cash injection into the game, Soccer Australia was wound up and replaced by the Australian Soccer Association. We have already begun to see some changes and have heard about plans for the progression of the game.

The review and restructure of the National Soccer League has received media attention in the past few days and personally I'm encouraged that the game is moving in the right direction. It's heartening to see the internal shift to work on the best policies for game reform.

The panel that Frank Lowy has selected to review the NSL is going to evaluate the competition and each Club that participates. Clubs will be compared against an established criteria to ascertain if they should be part of the new competition. At Spirit, we have anticipated what these criteria could and perhaps should be and for some time we have been moving forward to meet those requirements.

At Spirit we see ourselves as a community based organsiation as opposed to a corporate one and we are working towards ensuring that our Club will participate in any reformed competition. We see that the future of soccer in Australia needs to be based in each Club's community. It is imperative that players from the community have clear pathways to success in the Australian competition or abroad. Players like Dylan Macallister from the northern beaches or Alex Wilkinson from the inner west need to know that their participation in their local competitions can lead to a spot in the Northern Spirit team.

Thank you again for your support of the Club, I hope that you enjoy the game today. I invite you back again on November 2 when both our youth and NSL sides take on the Wollongong Wolves in an action packed day.

**NORTHERN SPIRIT**
**VS**
**PERTH GLORY**

**Sunday 19 October, 2003**

***Kick off at 5.00pm***

## View From the Top – Lawrie McKinna

Today we take on last season's premiers Perth Glory. It should be a tough match for us but we have been training well and the team always lifts for this match. Thank you for your support and let's hope we can come away with a favourable result today.

Last weeks game at Marconi saw us walk away with nothing to show from a good performance. The game had many similarities to the away loss to Newcastle a fortnight ago, but again I could not fault the player's attitude and commitment despite the loss.

Against Marconi enough chances were created to take the three points but our finishing was not razor sharp and their goalkeeper had a tremendous game. Amongst many great saves was Stewart Petrie's first half penalty strike which would have seen us in front after conceding an early goal. We dominated large parts of the game and really played well but we fell behind in the second half from a long-range freak strike from Joe Spiteri.

The Marconi game saw youngsters Matthew Hunter and Matthew Osman come into the team for the first time this year and do well. I was happy also with the performance of the defense who was without Alex Tobin (who is still injured) and Alex Wilkinson and Mark Milligan (both overseas on international duty) and the team worked well to limit Marconi's chances on goal.

Jonathan Richter is the third player missing through selection in the U/20's National team. We wish Wilkinson, Milligan and Richter well in the UAE and will keep you up to date on their progress. If they take the next step and are selected for the FIFA U/20 World Championships then we will lose them again later in the year, but it is a tremendous opportunity for them and will only benefit the Club in the long run.

I spoke earlier of our disappointment after the defeat three weeks ago at Newcastle. We bounced back with a great home win against Sydney Olympic and we will work hard for a similar turnaround this afternoon.

***Enjoy the game!***

### Spirit Sevens

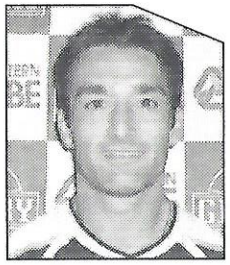
**Do you miss playing soccer over the long summer months? Wish you could have fun and kick a ball with some mates? Want to maintain your fitness level? Northern Spirit has the answer, simply play in our Spirit Sevens tournament!**

**Spirit Sevens is a new seven a side tournament that will be held at Pittwater Park from 3 November 2003 to 4 February 2004. Registrations are open for the competition that will run on Monday/Tuesday nights. With 15 minute halves and the chance to play in the final that will be a curtain raiser to a Northern Spirit match, you'd be crazy to miss out!**

**Find out more or register your team by calling (02) 9349 6376.**



## Our Visitors Today – Perth Glory



***Shaun Murphy***

Today we welcome Perth Glory to Pittwater Park for the first time. As the current National League Champions, Perth have rightfully been tagged as one of the favourites for the current season. Nothing they have done this year would indicate that they will not be there again at the business end of the year.

Perth are undefeated after three games and they have many new faces in the team who all have substantial NSL experience. There is one exception, ironically, the veteran defender and todays captain Shaun Murphy (#5) who returns to the west after many successful years in the UK. He played overseas at Notts County, West Brom and Sheffield United and was part of Australia's world cup campaign in 2001/2002. As the central defender he will look to control things in front of one of the leagues best custodians in Jason Petkovic (#1).

They are joined in Perth's defense by Matthew Bingley (#3) and Jade North (#11) who join from Newcastle United and Sydney Olympic respectively. Also from last years Olympic's Grand Final losing side are midfielders Wayne Shroj(#6) and Tom Pondeljak (#15) the latter of which is another attacking option who has already knocked in two this season.

Not that Glory's strikers normally need too much help. The all time NSL top goal scorer Damian Mori (#16) and partner Bobby Despotovski (#10) are regulars on the leading goal scorer charts and will need to be watched closely.

Perth are an attacking team and are sure to contribute to an entertaining game. On paper they are for sure the favourites to walk away with the three points this afternoon however Spirit have shown in the past that they can be giant killers on their day. Enjoy what should be a great match!

### Get your Northern Spirit Merchandise TODAY!

***To look like your favourite Spirit player or just support the team, grab your official merchandise at today's match! With a full range of gear you can buy the latest Spirit merchandise available! Check out the range and sizes at the merchandise stall today!***

# NORTHERN SPIRIT

| Shirt No. | Name | Playing Position | Date of Birth |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Paul Henderson | Goalkeeper | 22/04/76 |
| 2 | Julian Watts | Defender | 17/03/71 |
| 3 | Wayne O'Sullivan | Midfield | 25/02/74 |
| 4 | Noel Spencer | Midfield | 26/07/77 |
| 5 | Alex Tobin | Defender | 03/11/65 |
| 6 | Vuko Tomasevic | Midfield | 13/02/80 |
| 8 | Ian Ferguson | Midfield | 15/03/67 |
| 9 | Adam Kwasnik | Striker | 31/05/83 |
| 10 | Dylan Macallister | Striker | 17/05/82 |
| 11 | Jonathan Richter | Midfield | 12/04/83 |
| 12 | John Hutchinson | Midfield | 29/12/79 |
| 16 | Brent Fisher | Striker | 06/07/83 |
| 17 | Stewart Petrie | Striker | 27/02/70 |
| 18 | Alex Wilkinson | Defender | 13/08/84 |
| 22 | Matthew Osman | Defender | 29/07/83 |
| 23 | Steven Baveas | Midfield | 07/04/84 |
| 24 | Oliver Skelding | Midfield | 02/05/85 |
| 25 | Omar Obeid | Midfield | 23/05/85 |
| 26 | Andrew Mailer | Midfield | 19/04/84 |
| 28 | Matthew Hunter | Defender | 29/04/84 |
| 29 | Michael Mouyis | Defender | 04/06/85 |
| 30 | Jacob Rex | Goalkeeper | 04/10/84 |
| 31 | Travis Oughtred | Defender | 02/07/85 |
| 33 | Mark Milligan | Defender | 04/08/85 |



# PERTH GLORY

| Shirt No. | Name | Playing Position | Date of Birth |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Jason Petkovic | Goalkeeper | 07/12/72 |
| 2 | Matt Horsley | Midfield | 09/06/72 |
| 3 | Mathew Bingley | Defender | 16/08/71 |
| 4 | Bradley Hassell | Midfield | 25/04/74 |
| 5 | Shaun Murphy | Defender | 05/11/70 |
| 6 | Wayne Srhoj | Midfield | 23/03/82 |
| 7 | Scott Miller | Defender | 18/05/72 |
| 8 | Anthony Danze | Midfield | 15/03/84 |
| 9 | Nick Mrdja | Striker | 30/11/78 |
| 10 | Bobby Despotovski | Striker | 14/07/71 |
| 11 | Jade North | Defender | 07/01/82 |
| 12 | Mark Byrnes | Defender | 08/02/82 |
| 15 | Tom Pondeljak | Midfield | 08/01/76 |
| 16 | Damian Mori | Striker | 30/09/70 |
| 17 | Gary Faria | Midfield | 09/04/79 |
| 19 | Aaron Cole | Defender | 25/07/80 |
| 20 | Vince Matassa | Goalkeeper | 21/09/73 |
| 21 | Adrian Caceres | Striker | 10/01/82 |
| 22 | Dean Apelgren | Defender | 13/06/85 |
| 23 | Shane Crampton | Striker | 14/09/76 |
| 24 | Jamie Coyne | Defender | 02/01/81 |
| 25 | Scott Bulloch | Midfield | 13/08/84 |

## From the Terrace – Graham Hand

Two major football games were played in Sydney last weekend. One was seen by hundreds of millions of people, and the cheap tickets behind the posts cost $225. The other was two nights later and a little further west, watched by a couple of thousand, and my ticket cost $12. One game was unpredictable and tense, full of drama and great physical commitment, and the other was the opening of the Rugby World Cup.

At Marconi Stadium, it was ultimately a frustrating night as Spirit lost one of those games where you shake your head and wonder how it happened. A missed penalty, where the goalkeeper was allowed to run a few metres off his line before the ball was kicked, and a quick break that will be Marconi's Goal of the Year, and suddenly, the points were gone.

Three of the first four games of the season have now been lost, and yet there are encouraging signs in the Spirit camp. The two away games could both have gone our way, and later in the year, they will. The fight and determination evident last season is still there, and we have found a new home that has pleasantly surprised most people.

After two home games at Pittwater Park, a few urban myths about the sanctity of North Sydney Oval (NSO) have already been dismissed. The initial reaction of many Spirit fans when the move was announced was one of horror: the beautiful NSO replaced by a rugby field in suburban Pittwater. A bit like playing the FA Cup Final on the Isle of Man.

Although Pittwater Oval is no Old Trafford, it has some redeeming features. Fans are much closer to the pitch than they were at NSO, and five thousand people could create a real atmosphere. You can hear Paul Henderson yelling at his defense, you sense Ferguson's Fury at the referee's decisions, and you don't need to speak Scottish to know he is not inviting him over for a slice of haggis. And you can watch Lawrie telling Richter to defend more, and attack more, and if he can, do both at the same time.

It's what football is all about, playing at a football stadium, not one designed so that the square leg boundary is more than a prod for Adam Gilchrist. We all loved the beautiful setting of NSO, but it was costing $20,000 to open the gates for a few thousand people. It was move or no Club.

Despite the nostalgia for the old place, for a large percentage of Spirit's brief history, the team has played better away from home than in North Sydney. We went most of 2002 waiting for a home win. The hard, glass-like centre of the pitch, around the cricket squares, had Foster and Spencer skating like Torvill and Dean on a bad night.

At the Pittwater game against Olympic two weeks ago, fans were starting to feel more at home. The lads better known as the Bobs and the Maccas (from the old Bob Stand and McCartney Stand at NSO) were together for the first time, at the southern end of the main grandstand. These diehards love to stand up during a game and they have even asked the Club not to extend the seating into their part of the terraces. Whether the two groups continue as one remains to be seen. The Bobs have a flags and banner culture that rests a little uneasily with the Maccas, who prefer simply to belt out ribald songs and abuse rivals.

Even the playing surface had settled down significantly between the first two games. The bouncy ball seemed to surprise a few players in the Brisbane game, and they could not adapt to the extra touch needed to control the ball. But by the Olympic game, top dressing and rolling had made a big improvement, allowing freer passing and a more expansive approach.

Admittedly, on a wet, cold night, when the team loses 2-1 to a last minute penalty, Pittwater really will be the pits. The drive home will feel a little longer, and a few fans will wonder whether it is worth going back again. But on a warm Sydney evening like that for the Olympic game, when Ferguson's shot stretches the back of the net tighter than Dolly Parton's bra strap, who gives a damn about the history and romance of NSO.

Give me a financially viable Club, a few goals and a win any day.



# NORTHERN SPIRIT

## NSL SEASON 2003/2004

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Sun 19 Oct | Perth Glory | 5:00pm | Pittwater Park |
| 6 | Sun 26 Oct | Melbourne Knights | 3:00pm | Knights Stadium |
| 7 | Sun 2 Nov | Wollongong Wolves | 6:30pm | Pittwater Park |
| 8 | Sat 8 Nov | Football Kings | 4:30pm | Ericsson Stadium, NZ |
| 9 | BYE | | | |
| 10 | Sun 23 Nov | Sydney United | 6:30pm | Pittwater Park |
| 11 | Sat 29 Nov | Parramatta Power | 6:30pm | Parramatta Stadium |
| 12 | Sun 7 Dec | South Melbourne | 6:30pm | Pittwater Park |
| 13 | Wed 10 Dec | Adelaide United | 7:30pm | Hindmarsh Stadium |
| 14 | Sat 13 Dec | Brisbane Strikers | 7:00pm | Perry Park |
| 15 | Sun 21 Dec | Newcastle United | 6:30pm | Pittwater Park |
| 16 | Sun 28 Dec | Sydney Olympic | 5:00pm | OKI Jubilee Stadium |
| 17 | Sun 4 Jan | Marconi Stallions | 6:30pm | Pittwater Park |
| 19 | Sun 11 Jan | Melbourne Knights | 6:30pm | Pittwater Park |
| 20 | Fri 16 Jan | Wollongong Wolves | 7:35pm | WIN Stadium |
| 18 | Wed 21 Jan | Perth Glory | 7:30pm | Perth Oval |
| 21 | Sun 25 Jan | Football Kings | 6:30pm | Pittwater Park |
| 22 | BYE | | | |
| 23 | Sun 8 Feb | Sydney United | 6:30pm | Syd United Sports Centre |
| 24 | Sun 15 Feb | Parramatta Power | 6:30pm | Pittwater Park |
| 25 | Sun 22 Feb | South Melbourne | 4:00pm | Bob Jane Stadium |
| 26 | Sun 29 Feb | Adelaide United | TBA | Pittwater Park |

*Next Spirit Match:*

## *Northern Spirit*
## *vs*
## *Melbourne Knights*

**Sunday 26 October, 2003**

**Knights Stadium, Melbourne**

***Kick off at 3.00pm***

*Next Spirit Home Match:*

## NORTHERN SPIRIT
## VS
## WOLLONGONG WOLVES

**Sunday 2 November, 2003**

**Pittwater Park**

***Gates open at 3.30pm***
***Youth League 4.00pm***
***First Grade 6.30pm***

# BRING IT ON!

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